Accordingly Delhi Administration has identified some sites for hotels which will be allotted by them to entrepreneurs. These sites are likely to be located in different parts of Delhi. The date of completion of the hotels will depend on the action plan of the promoters

(d) and (e) The Akbar Hotels building was handed over to the Ministry of External Affairs in April 1986 for use as office space. A request was made to them for transfer of the building back to ITDC for operating it as a hotel. But this request has not been agreed to.

Breast fed Infants

3267. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated population of Infants exclusively breast fed in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that in many countries, the position is far superior in this regard, as per UNICEF Report of 1988; and

(c) whether Government have any specific plans for improvement of this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No country-wide estimate of infants exclusively breast fed, is available.

(b) The UNCIEF report 1988 does not contain information on breast fed infants in India. However, as per UNICEF report, 1986, the precentage of mothers breast feeding is more in developing countries than in the developed countries.

(c) Government of India has adopted the Indian National Code for Protection and Promotion of Breast Feeding in 1983. The infant Milk Foods and Feeding Bottles (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 1986, which seeks to protect and promote breast feeding has been passed by the Rajya Sabha Further action is being taken to get the Bill passed in the current session of Parliament.

Through the ICDS programme, the nursing and expectant mothers are encouraged to prolong breast feeding. The Health Ministry's "Manual of Health Workers", stresses the importance of breast feeding, and education on breast-feeding is provided to mothers by the health workers.

Non-preservation of Lechan Palkar, Palace by A.S.I.

3268. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India have declared in May, 1982, the Lechan Palkar, the mud palace of Leh as one of the National importance and brought under Government protection;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that a large portion of the palace, which is a finest example of the Tibetan architecture, has collapsed and that the palace is in a dilapidated condition;

(c) if so, what efforts have been made so far stating the annual amount spent, on preserving the palace since it came under Government protection; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to save the palace from total destruction and also to fix responsibility for its gross negligence,

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A portion of the Palace was damaged due to heavy rains in 1988.

(c) and (d) The Archaeological Survey of India have been trying to carry out repairs to the Palace, but the owner did not allow entrance for the execution of work to the Archaeological Survey of India for conservation and meanwhile the matter has been taken to Court challenging the ownership. Unless access is given to the Archaeological Survey of India it will not be possible for it to undertake repair works.

Suggestions for modifications in the Merchant Shipping Act

3269. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Comerce and Industry of India have made certain suggestions including modification in the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 to facilitate the transhipment of international containers at Indian ports;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the decision, if any, taken by Government on the suggestions made by ASSOCHAM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India in its National Seminar on "Shipping Ports and Containerisation in India" in December 1988 has made a number of recommendations, including modification in the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 to facilitate the transhipment of containers at Indian Ports. The other recommendations relate to induction of private capital in ports, setting up of Inter Model Transport Corporation, duty free import of equipments for ICD, CFS etc.

(c) No decision has been taken on these recommendations as these have been presently circulated to various agencies for the comments.

Impact of price rise in the implementation of new education policy

3270. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made regarding the likely impact on the over-all implementation of the New Education Policy due to the constant price rise and the sectoral imbalances within the sphere of education; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the manner in which Government propose to tackle the resources problem for adequately funding the education schemes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Teacher-student ratio in the primary education

3271. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest teacher-student ratio in the primary education in the country and by what percentags if falls short of requirement; and